

# Finance Committee Minutes

## January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM with Mr. David Herrick presiding, and Mr. Bill Hattendorf, Mr. Burt Imberman, Mr. Ira Yohalem, and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding in attendance. Guests were Mr. Michael Skorput, Selectman Ms. Tara White and Mr. Peter Marks Highway Superintendent.

Minutes for December 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 were accepted with a minor correction, Mr. Imberman 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

Prior to beginning the budget review a general discussion took place. Mr. Imberman questioned the deliberation process of individual budgets and how the total amounts in the various accounts reflected the needs of the amount expended. The Highway budget was particularly interesting in that there is no way for a correct assessment of actual needs when the weather is so unpredictable. For instance last year there was very little snow, so the need for plowing was decreased. Mr. Marks stated that the snow fall was low; however the roads needed treatment because of the ice that occurred when the rain hit the frozen pavements. And the snow plowing budget was used to spread sand and salt and the cost of that material. Thus the Winter Roads budget of \$161,606 which was broken down into contractors, and seasonal help, blades and miscellaneous, road salt, road sand and highway overtime allowed for the care of the roads despite the variations of the weather! The committee was also reminded that the snow plowing amount could exceed the allotted figure (by law), but if it did the following years budget would be affected.

The committee had to be mindful of the 2 ½ legislation that governs the total budget increase. Of course over the past years the committee has always been conservative when approving budgets, however the school budget was out of their control, and because of its size affects the total yearly budget!

The committee began to review the Highway Budgets!

**Winter Roads** [20423.02] (\$233,675) level funded {\$233,675} part of this budget includes \$61,069 for part-time salaries, and the committee was not dealing with salaries at this time. Mr. Skorput suggested that the committee pass the budget and the salaries quoted which do include increases would be adjusted once the selectmen had decided what the increases would be, and the figure would be adjusted at that time. With that assurance Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

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**Roads and Bridges** [20422.05] (\$187,000) level funded {\$187,000} Mr. Imberman 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Highway Department Training Expense** [20422.07] (\$1,200) level funded {\$1,200} Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Electricity** [20422.15] (\$4,500) level funded {\$4,500} Mr. Imberman 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Propane** [20422.18] (\$18,000) level funded {\$18,000} although last year's usage did not use all this budget, the amount was targeted to be level funded again because of the unpredictability of the weather Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Diesel** [20422.19] (\$52,000) now requesting {\$54,000} Mr. Marks stated that the department now has two new vehicles (Army surplus) which he was using during the summer and this accounted for the increase. This year the department had already spent about \$20,000 on diesel fuel! Mr. Imberman 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Highway Uniforms** [20422.78] (\$2,000) now requesting {\$2,500} this increase reflects the two additional men requiring uniforms. Mr. Hattendorf 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs. Spaulding 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Town Garage Maintenance** [20425.00] (\$9,000) now requesting {\$9,500}. This increase reflects the purchase of different oil and anti-freeze required by the new vehicles. Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Machinery Expense** [20428.00] (\$66,046) level funded {\$66,046} Mr. Marks in answer to some questions stated that the vehicles needed constant repair in the spring as their "front ends" suffered during the winter, also the price of tires could range about \$800 for some of the vehicles, such as the grader and back hoe. Mr. Yohalem asked if the Department "shopped around" which Mr. Marks said they did of course! Mr. Yohalem 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

With the completion of the Highway budgets the committee thanked Mr. Marks for his input and he left.

**Accounting Officer Expenses** [10135.03] (\$3,635) level funded {\$3,635} Ms. White discussed the training programs she attended as the accounting officer. Mr. Hattendorf 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Town Clerk Expenses** [10161.01] (\$2,200) now requesting {\$2,400} part of this budget includes \$2,000 for meetings and conventions which are in fact a type of training program for the Town Clerk. Mr. Hattendorf 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

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**Election Expenses** [10162.00] (\$2,130) now requesting {\$2,225} Mr. Hattendorf 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Street Listings** [10163.00] (\$1,000) level funded {\$1,000} Mr. Yohalem 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23PM and the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding Secretary.

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